



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, April 8, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Berthiaume & Fritze, and
Town Administrator Gaudette
Chairman Pepe was absent

At 6:04 p.m. Vice Chair Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

John Stevens announced that Chairman Pepe would participate remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law; all votes will be taken under roll call.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the March 18th and March 25th meeting minutes (Berthiaume / Stevens) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

Mr. Berthiaume announced that the Talk of the Town Program will feature the Spencer Rescue Squad and the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District Committee.

New Business

Presentation: Boston Post Road Cane to Mary E. Madden

Mr. Berthiaume presented Mary E. Madden with the Boston Post Road cane and a certificate honoring her as the Town's oldest resident. He noted that as Spencer's oldest resident, she will be the Grand Marshall in the Christmas Parade and perform the countdown to the fireworks at Family Fun Day. Ms. Madden said it was an honor to accept.

Action Item: Spencer Little League Request for Opening Day Parade

Mr. Woodbury read a notice from Kelly Paine, President of Spencer-East Brookfield Little League requesting permission to hold the annual Opening Day Parade on April 20th at 11 a.m.

A motion to approve (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Action Item: Intermunicipal Agreement with Leicester for Town Planner

Administrator Gaudette advised the Board to continue the agreement with Leicester for the services of Town Planner Michelle Buck, noting that Ms. Buck is a seasoned planner and the agreement has worked out well for both towns.

A motion to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement with Leicester for Town Planner services (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Action Item: Adopt Exemptions from Mandatory Education & Training Requirements of State Ethics Commission

Mr. Gaudette noted that certain unpaid/volunteer positions may be exempt from the Training Requirements of State Ethics Commission by a vote of the Board. The Board reviewed a list of possible exemptions recommended by the Town Clerk.

A motion to approve exemptions from the mandatory education and training requirements of the State Ethics Commission as presented (Berthiaume / Stevens) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Old Business**Discussion: Meritorious Service Awards**

Agreed to table until the next meeting.

Action Item: Health Insurance Opt-Out Program

Mr. Gaudette noted the policy was introduced at the March 25th meeting. He advised the Board to vote on whether or not to accept.

A motion to adopt the Health Insurance Opt-Out Program as written (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Discussion: Small Farm APR Financial Support – proposed ATM Article

Administrator Gaudette placed a draft warrant article that asks voters to transfer \$3,000 from the Land Stabilization account to financially support the Small Farm APR. He asked Board to decide whether or not to include.

Mr. Stevens said he believes the Town has done plenty for open space protection recently and wants to save the funds for other land issues. He is in favor of placing on the Warrant for voters to decide; however he will not support it. Mr. Berthiaume also wants to utilize the funds for other areas in Town. He doesn't want to place the article on the Warrant. Mr. Woodbury said it is important to preserve the land and wants to keep it on the Warrant to allow voters to decide.

Discussion: Update on PILOT Agreement with Borrego Solar, Wilson Street Project

Dan Berwick with Borrego Solar, the Board of Assessors, and Principal Assessor Mary Williams were present for the discussion. Mr. Gaudette announced that an agreement has been reached between the Town of Spencer and Borrego Solar on a payment structure. It has been reviewed by Town Counsel. An article will be placed on a Warrant and a copy available in the Clerk's Office.

Town Administrator's Report

Discussion: Review proposed FY2014 Budget, Warrant, and Capital Plan

Mr. Gaudette noted that the Board previously received presentations on the budget and proposed ballot questions and information on the Capital Plan.

Discussion: Review Proposed Override Ballot Questions

Question 1 – asks whether or not to allow the Town to assess an additional \$150,000 to fund an ALS Ambulance Service Contract.

Mr. Stevens asked if approved, how Spencer Rescue Squad (SRS) would get funded since it can't be specifically spelled out. He is not in favor of an override and believes it should be a separate line item in the budget. He stated that the Board could increase Transfer Station fees to raise revenue.

Mr. Gaudette explained that if the question passes, he and the Fire Chief will work on a contract with SRS and the Board will vote. If funds are not used, the amount comes off the levy. People are only taxed on what is actually spent.

Mr. Berthiaume does not want to cut funding in other areas with a tight budget to begin with. He believes this should be a ballot question for the voters to decide. Mr. Fritze said it doesn't make sense to take funds from the Transfer Station, which is already in the red.

Mr. Stevens believes the Town needs to trim the budget as people at home are currently doing and include the amount as a line item, not an override. He said his proposal ensures ambulance service.

Mr. Gaudette noted the impact would add 16 cents or \$48 per year to the average tax bill.

Mr. Pepe is concerned with the override since it is guaranteed money and SRS may continue to operate even if it is not working as efficiently as it should, however he would support letting it go before the voters.

A motion to approve Question 1 as written (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 4/1 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-no, Pepe-yes.

Question 2 – asks whether or not to allow the Town to assess an additional \$2, 261,212 to fund the FY14 SEBRSD assessment.

A motion to approve Question 2 as written (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Action Item: Vote to Set & Close the May 2, 2013 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Administrator Gaudette reviewed articles 1-31 (attached as part of this record). He received an additional article, # 32 at 3 pm today, which is a citizen petition article asking for a vote to take sewer easements by eminent domain. According to State Statute, this must place on warrant. More details will be provided to allow the Board to make an informed decision.

A motion to approve articles 1-32 as written, with the exception of articles 19 and 22 (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

A motion to approve article 22 (Small Farm APR funding) to be placed on a warrant (Stevens / Fritze) passed 4/1 by roll call: Berthiaume-no, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

A motion by Mr. Pepe to amend Article 19 (Capital Improvements) to move \$10,500 from the Microfilm Reader to the Senior Center feasibility study. Motion fails; was not seconded. Mr. Woodbury abstained.

A motion to approve article 19 (Capital Improvements) for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 4/1 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-no.

A motion to close the May 2, 2013 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0 by roll call: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Action Item: Notice to Town Clerk re: Ballot Questions

Mr. Gaudette will notify the Town Clerk that the Board voted to submit Ballot Questions 1 & 2 as discussed for the Annual Town Election on May 14, 2013.

Discussion: Draft Agendas for April 17th and April 22nd

Reviewed the draft agendas

Board Liaison Reports:

Mr. Berthiaume announced that interviews for Business Manager Applicants have been completed and there are three excellent candidates.

Mr. Stevens attended MMA and South Central Chamber of Commerce meetings. He learned about new programs in Worcester County.

Mr. Gaudette reported he has had some response on committee openings.

Citizen Input

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Rd. asked the Board to install a four-way stop sign on the corner of Meadow Rd and Pleasant St. Mr. Gaudette said the State would advise against it. The Town has applied to the State to study the area.

Eleanor O'Connor, Paxton Rd. asked if the Town would consider a left turn on Paxton Rd. Mr. Gaudette will check with Steve Tyler.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe attended the Finance Committee Budget hearing and said he was disappointed with the low attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

Intermunicipal Agreement
Exemptions from State Ethics Training Requirements
Health Insurance Opt-Out Program
PILOT Agreement
FY2014 Budget, Warrant, & Capital Plan